THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (c): The operational responsibility for implementation of Public Distribution System (PDS) is that of the State Governments and UT Administrations. Decisions relating to intra region allocation, issue of ration cards, eligibility criteria etc. are taken by the State Governments/UT Administrations. However, to ensure peoples participation in the functioning of PDS at the grass root level, the Central Governmen had advised all the States/UTs to constitute fair price shop level vigilance committees in the areas covered under Revamped Public Distribution (RPDS). The Government of Gujarat had reported the constitution of 4120 fair price shop leel vigilance committees as on 31st August, 1994 in the RPDS areas.

Supply of foodgrains and essential commodities at subsidised rates by State Governments

807. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether various State Governments have announced supply of foodgrains and essential commodities at subsidised rates through Public Distribution System;

(b) whether the State Governments have approached the Central Government for assistance in meeting the cost of subsidies; and

(c) what is the response of the Central Government to these requests?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (c) Bulk allocations of Public Distribution System (PDS) commodities are made by Central Government to State Governments/UT Administrations. Foodgrains are issued at subsidised Central Issue Prices for the PDS. The State Governments/UTs further add, on their own incidentals and supply these through Fair Price Shops at end retail Prices fixed by them. In case of areas covered under the Revamped PDS (RPDS) Central Government supplies foodgrains at specially subsidised prices which are Rs. 50/- less per quintal than the central issue price for normal PDS areas. It has been stipulated that the end retail prices of foodgrains in the RPDS areas should not exceed the specially subsidised Central Issue Price by more than 25 paise per kg. Some State Governments/UT Administrations are on their own, distributing foodgrains through PDS/RPDS at prices which are lower than the Central Issue Prices of foodgrains. Subsidy on this account is being borne by the State Governments.

The Central Government has received a request from Government of Andhra Pradesh for a Central grant to cover an estimted expenditure of Rs. 1265 crores in 1995-96 on their scheme for supplying rice at the rate of Rs. 2/- kg. As the Central Government makes available foodgrain for the Public Distribution System to all States/UTs at uniform central issue prices on which the Central Government incurs subsidy, there is no proposal to give additional grants or subsidy for this purpose in any State/UT

Cases pending before consumer forum and State Commission

808. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to tsates:

(a) how many cases are pending before each Consumer forum in Delhi at present;

(b) how many complaints were received and disposed off by each forum during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether there is any vacancy in these fora if so, details thereof;